



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 13, 2000

S. 484

Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000

As approved by the House Committee on International Relations on September 7, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost about \$150,000 annually in appropriated funds. The act also could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such effects would be less than \$100,000 annually. S. 484 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not have a significant effect on state or local budgets. The act would have no effect on tribal governments.

S. 484 would grant refugee status to nationals of certain countries if they deliver into the custody of the United States a living American considered to be either a prisoner of war or missing in action (POW/MIA) from the Vietnam or Korean wars. Those eligible would include nationals of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, North Korea, and any of the independent states of the former Soviet Union. The act would require the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) to promote the refugee program through radio and television broadcasts to those countries.

Based on information from the BBG, CBO estimates that the cost of additional international broadcasting would be about \$150,000 a year from appropriated funds. Enacting S. 484 also could increase the number of refugees admitted to the United States, which would increase the administrative costs for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the costs for certain federal entitlement programs. However, CBO estimates that any increased spending on these activities, which would be classified as direct spending, would be less than \$100,000 in any year because very few additional refugees are expected under S. 484.

On May 25, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 484, the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999, as passed by the Senate on May 24, 2000. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the cost estimates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.